

From: Alex Alegado
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:09pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the Microsoft settlement is a bad idea and an underhanded way for Microsoft gain marketshare without proper competition.

The idea of Microsoft giving away software licenses that are of little real value and old hardware to schools pulls our heart strings but it has, at its core, a cynical motivation: In time these "beneficiaries" will have to upgrade their hardware and their software. Who will be there to sell licenses for new software? Who will reap financial reward far in excess of the financial penalty this settlement represents? Microsoft.

Any settlement must be made to increase competition, not stymie it. A mere \$1 billion dollar "gift" now will turn into a lucrative investment for Microsoft and it will be handed to them on a silver plate. Microsoft needs to suffer some penalty as a monopolist. That penalty should be significant -- \$10 billion, not \$1 billion, lifetime licenses on software for all schools -- something that really helps schools and hurts Microsoft. A \$1 billion settlement is nothing to a company that make more than that in profit each month and has \$30+ billion in the bank.

Thank you for your attention.

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